



## Adaptation strategies for health impacts of climate change in Western Australia: Application of a Health Impact Assessment framework

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**Year:** 2011  
**Journal:** Environmental Impact Assessment Review. 31 (3): 297-300

### Abstract:

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the globe and there is substantial evidence that this will result in a number of health impacts, regardless of the level of greenhouse gas mitigation. It is therefore apparent that a combined approach of mitigation and adaptation will be required to protect public health. While the importance of mitigation is recognised, this project focused on the role of adaptation strategies in addressing the potential health impacts of climate change. The nature and magnitude of these health impacts will be determined by a number of parameters that are dependent upon the location. Firstly, climate change will vary between regions. Secondly, the characteristics of each region in terms of population and the ability to adapt to changes will greatly influence the extent of the health impacts that are experienced now and into the future. Effective adaptation measures therefore need to be developed with these differences in mind. A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) framework was used to consider the implications of climate change on the health of the population of Western Australia (WA) and to develop a range of adaptive responses suited to WA. A broad range of stakeholders participated in the HIA process, providing informed input into developing an understanding of the potential health impacts and potential adaptation strategies from a diverse sector perspective. Potential health impacts were identified in relation to climate change predictions in WA in the year 2030. The risk associated with each of these impacts was assessed using a qualitative process that considered the consequences and the likelihood of the health impact occurring. Adaptations were then developed which could be used to mitigate the identified health impacts and provide responses which could be used by Government for future decision making. The periodic application of a HIA framework is seen as an ideal tool to develop appropriate adaptation strategies to address the potential health impacts of climate change. (C) 2010 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eiar.2010.07.001>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

**Extreme Weather Event:** Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Wildfires

**Food/Water Security:** Agricultural Productivity, Livestock Productivity

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**Temperature:** Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

**Geographic Feature:** ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

**Geographic Location:** ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Australasia

**Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Mental Health/Stress

**Infectious Disease:** Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

**Foodborne/Waterborne Disease:** General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

**Vectorborne Disease:** General Vectorborne

**Mental Health Effect/Stress:** Other Mental Disorder

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Model/Methodology:** ☒

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Exposure Change Prediction

**Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Research Article

**Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Medium-Term (10-50 years)

**Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:** ☒

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content